

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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## AGRICULTURE

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

#### XCIV.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

November has come and is showing us what we have made, now that nearly everything has been harvested.

#### WORK FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

We should finish sowing oats, get the wheat land in good condition, and sow after the first good frost. Rutabagas can be pulled and banked or housed the last of the month. Prepare pens for the pigs as they are about ready to be finished for the smokehouse or market. In the apple region of the State this crop should be gathered and put in shape for the coming winter. If you have not done so, decide at once if you have some cattle which ought to be disposed of, either for beef, milch cows or whatever use they can be put to.

The nights are getting long now, and you have a nice time to read, so do not fail to get some good papers. Nearly all of them will give you two months' subscription if you will subscribe now.

Chickens are very high now on some of the markets, and if you wish to sell before spring, now is your time. Just as soon as pork comes on the market, chicken prices will drop.

#### A WORD TO THE SCHOOL CHILDREN

A great many children are now going to school; and we just want to talk to them a little. We have had considerable experience with boys and girls, having taught some and worked them on the farm and in other places. Now do not think we are going to tell you something new, for we are not, but at the same time we are going to point out some things that you will find to be true before you reach the age of twenty-five. Prepare to do business, for it matters not what your occupation is, you will need to know how to make a little calculation. Now do not think that every person you meet can tell you how much  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of meat will cost at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound. Can you tell how many eggs to carry to the store to get nine yards of dress goods at 8 1-3 cents per yard, when eggs are worth 15 cents per dozen? These are some of the little things you need to know. Learn to write a plain hand, so that your words can be understood. Then

word your notes and orders so that you can convey the ideas you desire. How often do we see boys and girls turned down because they can not transact ordinary business! It is the head-work that counts; human labor is the cheapest thing in the world. But a well-trained mind is the highest-priced thing in the world. So learn how to work your head. It makes no difference whether you expect to live on a farm or elsewhere, you need to know these things. A business man judges the form of a letter more than the penmanship, so if you expect to succeed you must learn to do the little things well.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

#### Local Co-operation.

Mr. E. E. Miller, of Morristown, Tenn., an occasional correspondent of The Progressive Farmer, writes the Epitomist as follows:

The farmer seldom regards his neighbor as his competitor, nor does he often have occasion to do so. Indeed, it is likely that there is no class of people who take so much interest in each other's welfare, as do the farmers of a community, or whose interest are so closely related. In view of these facts, it is surprising how little co-operation there is among the farmers. It is only reasonable to consider that, if in a neighborhood, the farmers would combine in buying their supplies, selling their produce, laying out plans for their future crops, assisting each other's labors, and in settling all questions which are of interest to all or to the community as a whole, that the results would be beneficial. Co-operation is now a recognized principle of successful business enterprise. Why should not the farmer make use of it as do other classes? There are few localities but that would be benefited if the people would come together and consider, and act upon all matters of general interest, and study and discuss methods of building up and promoting the welfare of the community.

The farmers of Johnston County have made and harvested great crops this year. Probably never before have our people experienced such a wave of prosperity. It is not due, however, to any political party, but to the determined effort, hard labor, and economical management of the people themselves.—Smithfield Herald.

#### CHANGES IN EASTERN CAROLINA FARMING.

Very Rapidly Have More Progressive and Profitable Methods Been Introduced—Changes of Vast Importance.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

"Unless there is a change, cotton-raising in this section has reached its limit. Strawberries in the spring and tobacco later in the summer, will utilize all the available labor, so that no more can be spared on the cotton crop."—Harry Farmer.

What greater change in farm methods can Harry Farmer, or any one else, desire than that which has taken place in Eastern North Carolina during the last few years? As much cotton as ever is raised—perhaps more. More corn, oats and other grain is grown; and the hay crop, both grass and pea-vines, has increased about 100 per cent. Ten years ago there was very little machinery for saving hay in all Eastern North Carolina. To-day nearly every progressive farmer has his mower and horse-rake.

I think this a change of immense importance. It means that the farmers are raising their own stock feed, and not buying so much Western grain and hay. And it follows that they raise more stock—improved stock, at that—and therefore they buy less Western meat. But the thing of most importance which this change shows is that the farmers are improving their land by a rotation of crops instead of "running it down" under the constant clean culture which the old all-cotton system demanded.

Yet the Eastern Carolina farmer may not stop there, nor has he stopped there. He can add tobacco-growing and trucking to his list of crops. The tobacco crop is now of about as much importance in this section as the cotton crop; so is the trucking business, only perhaps still more important, and both are growing rapidly. Under this plan it is necessary to employ help by the year and keep things moving every working day in the year, instead of hiring one's hands "till crops are laid by," as formerly. If cotton is planted a few days later than the usual time of planting, it will not need to be worked till the strawberry crop is out of the way; and the tobacco crop is usually harvested by the time cotton is ready to pick; so that the three crops do not materially conflict as to time of working and harvesting. True there is some con-

flict and hands are hard to get at times; but the fact that since this change our farmers usually have the cash with which to pay for work, ought to call back many laborers that have gone away to Georgia and Mississippi, and also bring in many that are entirely new, and conditions will hardly get worse.

But, from the lament of Harry Farmer, quoted above, it seems there are some folks who wish to change back again and plant all our improved land in cotton, to see how much we can raise. "It will be better for us to sell all our nice harvesting machinery and turn our corn, grain and pea fields, likewise our strawberry and vegetable fields, into cotton culture. Then all hands can lay by crops and rest till cotton is ready to pick, and from the time it is picked till it is time to plant again. That's the way our daddies did, and they lived better than we do. Suppose we do over-do the thing—raise too much—and the price goes down to five cents again, why then we can mortgage our farms, and if they are sold we can blame it to hard times, caused by the Republicans or Democrats, whichever may be in office, and we can get revenge as well as bring back 'prosperity' by voting for 't'other side.'"

No; this is not what Harry Farmer wants to happen. I don't believe he intended that paragraph as a lament, though it reads very much like one. He was just observing the prospects for the cotton crop alone, and was not counting the two, maybe three or four or five dollars the farmer now gets out of his tobacco, strawberries, melons, cantaloupes, vegetables, hay, grain, hogs and cows and chickens, for every one dollar that he gets out of his cotton crop. Harry Farmer is probably quite satisfied with this "change" which has taken place, and which is still going on.

This "change" is one of the things that made the Atlantic Coast Line rich enough to enable it to absorb two other great railway systems, as well as numerous small lines, within only a few months, a thing unparalleled in the annals of American railways.

An old nursery rhyme tells us all about how the "mighty ocean and the beauteous land" were made by "little drops of water and little grains of sand," and now, behold, what a "mighty" railroad such an insignificant little thing as a "change" can make!

ROBT. S. TAYLOR.

Duplin Co., N. C.